

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3696

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: VIOLENCE CONTINUES

SUMMARY: VIOLENCE NORTH OF LISBON CONTINUES AND IS GAINING
MOMENTUM. TWO COMPANIES OF REINFORCEMENTS -- TOTALING 280 MEN --
FROM LISBON UNITS NOTED FOR LEFTIST SYMPATHIES AND POOR
DISCIPLINE WERE DISPATCHED TO OPORTO ON AUGUST 6. GENERALS
OTEO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND FABIAO ARRIVED IN OPORTO MORNING
AUGUST 7 TO REVIEW SITUATION WITH REGIONAL COMMANDER FOR NORTH,
GENERAL CORVACHO. PCP "UNITARY" RALLY IN OPORTO AUGUST 6 TO
PROTEST VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT PRODUCED POOR TURNOUT. PCP CON-
TINUES TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE IN HESITANT FASHION; LOCAL PCP
MILITANTS ARE INCREASINGLY TAKING DEFENSE INTO OWN HANDS. PS
HELD RALLY IN TOMAR AUGUST 6. END SUMMARY

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1. VIOLENCE: LATEST INCIDENTS IN CONTINUING VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT INCLUDE:

-- IN FAFE (BRAGA), ON AUGUST 6, SIX PERSONS -- AMONG LARGE CROWD ATTEMPTING TO ASSAULT PCP OFFICES -- WERE WOUNDED BY AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE FROM WITHIN OFFICES. ONE REPORTED DEAD AND SEVERAL OTHERS IN SERIOUS CONDITION.

-- IN BOMBARRAL (CALDAS DA RAINHA) ON AUGUST 6, OFFICES OF PCP AND MES WERE SACKED AND CONTENTS BURNED. DEMONSTRATORS ALSO DEMANDED PURGING OF LEFTISTS FROM CAMARA MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL BANK.

-- IN VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO (BRAGA), ON AUGUST 6, FUNERAL OF PPD ACTIVIST, SECOND VICTIM OF AUGUST 1 ASSAULT ON PCP OFFICES, TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. ESTIMATED 6,000 PERSONS ACCOMPANIED FUNERAL CORTAGE THROUGH CITY; LOCAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS CLOSED FOR DAY, AND FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF MAST.

-- IN BARCELOS (BRAGA), ON AUGUST 5, EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE OCCURRED BETWEEN UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS AND MILITARY MEN GUARDING PCP OFFICES. NO INJURIES REPORTED.

-- IN PORTO DE ESPADA (PORTALEGRA), ON AUGUST 5, MDP/CDE OFFICES WERE SACKED AND CONTENTS BURNED.

2. TWO COMPANIES OF REINFORCEMENTS TOTALING 200 MEN -- ONE COMPANY OF MARINES AND THE OTHER FROM RALIS (LIGHT ARTILLERY REGIMENT)-- WERE SENT NORTH AFTERNOON AUGUST 6 TO BE PLACED UNDER OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF LEFT-LEANING GENERAL CORVACHO. BOTH UNITS ARE NOTED FOR LEFTIST SYMPATHIES AND POOR DISCIPLINE. (ELEMENTS OF RALIS REPORTEDLY WANTED TO FIRE ON SOCIALISTS DURING PS RALLY IN LISBON JULY 19.)

3. PS DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE: SOCIALISTS HELD RALLY IN TOMAR (SANTAREM) AUGUST 6 ATTENDED BY SOME 5,000. SOARES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ADDRESSED CROWD, REPEATING FAMILIAR PS THEMES. RALLY RECEIVED USUAL SCANT ATTENTION IN COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS.

4. LEFTIST RALLY IN OPORTO: PCP AND THEIR ALLIES STAGED "UNITARY" RALLY IN OPORTO AUGUST 6 IN SUPPORT OF AFM AND IN PROTEST AGAINST CONTINUED WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT. GENERAL CORVACHO, REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER FOR NORTH, BRIEFLY ADDRESSING CROWD SAID "...I AM CONVINCED THAT THE

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DISADVANTAGED ARE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE EVEN THEIR LIVES, IF NECESSARY, TO DEFEND REVOLUTION; I AM EQUALLY CERTAIN AFM, WHICH PLACES TRUE INTEREST OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ABOVE ITS OWN INTERESTS, IS PREPARED TO DO SAME."

5. COMMENT: INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BECOME SO FREQUENT AND WIDESPREAD AS TO CREATE THEIR OWN MOMENTUM. EACH INCIDENT SEWS SEEDS FOR FURTHER INCIDENTS -- WITNESS RIPPLE

EFFECT OF INCIDENTS IN FAMALICAO AND FAFE. INTRODUCTION
OF UNDISCIPLINED TROOPS OF KNOWN LEFTIST SYMPATHIES IS ONLY
LIKELY TO FURTHER EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. IF THEY FIRE ON
DEMONSTRATORS, A FURTHER ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IS LIKELY.

6. PCP REACTION HAS BEEN HESITANT. INITIAL PCP RESPONSE WAS
TO BRAND VIOLENCE AS WORK OF REACTIONARIES, REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR
AFM, AND CALL FOR AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN ORDER. EARLY
BREACHES OF PARTY DISCIPLINE IN FORM OF ATTACKS UPON MILITARY
FOR ITS PASSIVITY IN FACE OF ATTACKS UPON PCP FACILITIES DREW
REBUKE FROM PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AS INABILITY OF MILITARY TO
PREVENT ATTACKS BECAME MORE OBVIOUS, ADDITIONAL CRITICISM
OF MILITARY BY LOCAL PCP HAS GONE UNANSWERED BY PCP NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP. INCREASINGLY, LOCAL PCP MILITANTS ARE TAKING DEFENSE
INTO THEIR OWN HANDS ANSWERING ATTEMPTED ASSUALTS WITH GUNFIRE.
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